

Message Text

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ACTION XMB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4304

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 15709

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, TH
SUBJ: SIAM KRAFT PAPER COMPANY CASE

REF: (A) BANGKOK 15359; (B) STATE 161972

1. AMBASSADOR HAD LUNCH WITH GOVERNOR SNOH AT CENTRAL BANK JULY 18. AMBASSADOR PRESSED CASE FOR RELIEF FOR SIAM KRAFT PAPER COMPANY FROM FINE IMPOSED BY CRIMINAL COURT. EMPHASIZED ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF DECISION ON INVESTMENT CLIMATE. GOVERNOR SNOH SEEMED FULLY APPRISED OF SIAM KRAFT CASE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. HE OBSERVED NORMAL ROUTE TO OBTAIN SETTLEMENT FAVORABLE TO SIAM KRAFT APPEARED TO BE PETITION TO THE COURTS TO REPAY FINE OVER EXTENDED PERIOD.

2. AMBASSADOR INFORMED SNOH HE PLANNED TO CALL ON UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON WEDNESDAY AND PRIME MINISTER ON FRIDAY TO URGE DRASTIC REDUCTION IN FINE IF NOT TOTAL FORGIVENESS, AND WOULD LEAVE AIDE-MEMOIRE DETAILING USG POSITION IN MATTER. SNOH AGREED EXPRESSION OF USG VIEWS DIRECTLY TO MFA AND PARTICULARLY PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE DESIRABLE. HE INDICATED CASE POSED DELICATE PROBLEM FOR PRIME MINISTER THANIN AS HE AFTER ALL CAME FROM THE JUDICIARY. EMBASSY IS SENDING A TEXT OF PROPOSED AIDE-MEMOIRE BY SEPTTEL FOR COMMENT AND APPROVAL PRIOR MEETING MFA 1100 HOURS BANGKOK TIME JULY 20.
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3. IN RELATED ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS, PUNPOEM KRAIRUK, CHAIRMAN OF SIAM COMMERCIAL BANK AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BUREAU OF CROWN PROPERTIES, SAW MINISTER OF FINANCE ON JULY 18. ACCORDING TO TARRIN, MINISTER TOLD PUNPOEM THAT THE COMPANY WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO BE DAMAGED IN ANY WAY BY COURT DECISION. FINANCE MINISTER THOUGHT THAT GOVERNMENT COULD GRANT COMPENSATORY TAX

RELIEF TO OFFSET AMOUNT OF FINE OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. EMBASSY
PROPOSES TO INCLUDE REFERENCE TO TAX RELIEF IN AIDE-MEMOIRE.
JUDGE SANYA WILL CALL ON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE JULY 19.

4. EMBOFF DISCUSSED EXIM SUGGESTION CONTAINED IN REFTel (B) WITH
HARVEY LEVE. LEVE PLANS TO DISCUSS APPROACH WITH SKPC LAWYERS,
BUT CONSIDERS THAT TIME FACTOR PRECLUDES TAKING THAT COURSE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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